



Spy Pond Committee

Date: Tuesday, Dec 6th, 2022
Time: 7:30pm
Location: Teleconference

Minutes

Attendance: Brad Barber, Brian Battuello, Judi Berman, Dick Terry, Stoker Rogovin

Facilitator: Brad Barber
Minutes: Brian Battuello

1. November minutes

Approved

2. Introductions

Members all know each other. Brad went to the New England Botanical Society meeting and heard Heather McCargo on the Wild Seed Project. She grows 100s of seedlings outside in a 4-6" pot.

3. Update on fertilizer flyer

Dick had an update on the volunteers that distribute the flyer. They will be able to do less precincts this year, but will be willing to assist with other volunteers. Judy suggested contacting the scouts.

4. Update on Spy Pond

Brad sent some issues with Spy Pond to the Water Bodies Group of the Conservation Commission. A good discussion occurred at their October meeting. The ConComm expects to finalize the Spy Pond NOI at their Feb 2 meeting. SWCA will provide an annual report.

5. Update on variable milfoil

Brad found scattered variable milfoil in the south basin from Kelwyn Manor marsh to Sheraton Park. The plants were less than 3" long with long white roots. Eleven plants were found at one location. New England Aquatic Services will remove the plants next spring.

6. Update on phragmites

Bill has suggested that we stay on top of the phragmites issue. Brad counted 336 visible plants on the pond. Over two thirds were on Elizabeth Island. The Water Bodies Group discussed an NOI for removing the plants next fall.

7. Update on curlyleaf pondweed

Tom Woolf of Montana Fish and Wildlife wrote several papers about curlyleaf pondweed. Brad exchanged emails with Tom. He suggested treating in early spring with a low level of diquat. If repeated several years in a row, the number of turions (reproductive buds) is much reduced.

8. Update on spypond.org

Brad talked with Paul English and he is looking into finding a webmaster to run the page.

9. Analysis of a sediment sample

Brad sent a sample to UMass and they found that levels of nutrients were higher than in 2019. Phosphorus increased from 3.9 to 5.3 mg/kg. Potassium increased from 54 to 83 mg/kg. Sulfur increased from 97 to 476 mg/kg. Copper increased from 0.3 to 5.4 mg/kg. Calcium increased from 1117 to 2585 mg/kg.

10. Probing the depths of Spy Pond

Brad devised a twenty foot pole for depth measurements of the sediment under Spy Pond. The sill behind Elizabeth Island is fairly level with 5 to 7.5 feet of water, but the sediment depth ranges from a few inches to thirteen feet or more.

11. Year-end report for Water Bodies Group

Brad asked for suggestions on high points for the report. Judy mentioned the cleanup and the dredging. The pond is being used by the crew teams again. Brian mentioned that we had successful ice coverage with high recreational use. Judy mentioned the fishing hook committee, and also saving two swans from fish line entanglements.

12. Year-end report for Envision Arlington

Similar suggestions with more emphasis on pond management.

13. New Business

Brian mentioned that the Route Two street lights seemed to be much brighter than the previous year. Brad will suggest a contact at MassDOT we could contact for more info.

The ice subcommittee reported that there was no ice.

Stroker had some early ideas for trail day next year, especially concerning the wire cages around saplings.

Brian volunteered to work on committee recruiting.

14. Adjournment at 8:31pm